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WA6-2034

REPLY TO DISTRICT OFFICE

20734

February 16, 1966

Dr. Frank Stanton, President
Columbia Broadcasting System
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Croesus (or do you prefer Faustus?),

Besides building parks (for the cost of a school) where the least needy of New York can see and enjoy them, what the hell are you going to do with all the money you make from the degredation of American culture and the dulling of American citizens to the urgent crises they confront? Will your gold be any more useful to you that that of Croesus? That of your soul? (that the early history of CBS shows you at least once had) - will it be tormented like Faust's?

Your greed and utter contempt for your obligations - as a writer and an American I regard them as sacred obligations - have finally driven out of your organization perhaps the last of your executives who had a sense of his responsibilities to the society that has made you a millionaire. It is as much a credit to him as it is a measure of you and the public-be-damned-as-long-as-I-make-a-buck-attitude.

If a democratic society is to be viable, those who mold its beliefs bear the greatest burden, for unless the public is well and honestly informed, it cannot discharge its obligation to be the ultimate source of action and policy. If a capitalistic society is to continue, it must warrant the accumulation of its wealth by those in whose hands it concentrates. You and CBS have failed on both counts. After a long and dismal history of automatically repeating the official propaganda line of the administration, with no more freedom or integrity than the unfree press of other countries, you refuse to even offer your listeners the opportunity of hearing the deliberations of their elected representatives on what is certainly the most important and potentially most disasterous issue of the day. How can you justify your stewardship of the freedom of the press guaranteed you by the Constitution, by which you got wealthy, and through ~~xxx~~ which you can enjoy your wealth? I wonder if it was just the money you made through those disgusting programs you would not cancel. Was it that you didn't want the people to learn any of the truth about the sad condition of their country's policies? If so, how much better a man are you than Goebbels?

These are very dangerous days. Recent history proves beyond question that our government, its policies and the President's advisers are often wrong. How often can they be and permit survival in the nuclear age?

Mr. Friendly did a courageous and highly responsible thing in resigning , for he did much more than recapture his ~~integrity~~ dam and establish his integrity and responsibility as a citizen of a democratic society. He shamed and exposed you to the point where you had to do what you had refused to do ~~compelled his departure~~. Then, to solidify your disgrace, you announced you were carrying the hearings on your prime news outlet, the Cronkite news, suppressing the story of Friendly's departure, even though your competition and even affiliates had already honestly reported it. ~~Xxxx~~ Shame!

All Agreements are Contingent upon Strikes, Accidents and Other Delays Unavoidable or Beyond Our Control.
Quotations are Subject to Change Without Notice and are Subject to Prior Sale. Terms, Conditions and Mill Standard Tolerances.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg